SUPPLEMENT
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BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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British Medical Association.

CURRENT NOTES.

A Prologue to the Edinburgh Annual Meeting.

So much interest has been aroused all over the world by the news that the British Medical Association is going to Edinburgh for its Annual Meeting next year that members, and particularly those who are old Edinburgh students, will be interested to hear that things are already in good train for their welcome. On October 29th the Medical Secretary visited Edinburgh to look into some of the preliminary arrangements, and the President-Elect, Sir Robert Philip, kindly arranged that he should meet many of those who will be responsible for the chief administrative arrangements at an informal dinner held in the beautiful library of the Royal College of Physicians. There were no speeches, but a good deal of useful conversation round the table. Sir Robert Philip, in recalling his unusual position as one who will be a President after having also been local general secretary of an Annual Meeting, said that the medical profession in Edinburgh were unanimous in their desire to give the Association a fitting reception, and to make the meeting an outstanding success. Strong hopes were expressed that there would be a large return of old Edinburgh students to their Alma Mater, and the Medical Secretary was able to assure those present that his tours in Canada and South Africa had given him an impression that the oversea Branches would be more strongly represented in 1927 than ever before. Because of their desire to offer a hearty welcome to, and to make adequate arrangements for the comfort of, their guests at a time when the tourist traffic makes large demands upon accommodation in the city, the executive are convinced that a special and earnest attempt should be made to secure early in the year applications from those who intend to be present at the meeting.

Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality.

The Association's Committee on Causation of Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality at its last meeting gave further consideration to the replies sent by the Divisions to the questionary, and also to information which had been received from individual practitioners giving statistics of the results of their midwifery experience. It is hoped early in the coming year to hold a conference of bodies who are interested in the steps which are to be taken to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. A subcommittee has been set up to consider special questions which should be dealt with by this conference, and to draw up a memorandum summarizing any further information which may be received which is likely to be of use in the final report of the Committee. The Medical Secretary will be glad to receive figures showing the individual experience of doctors as regards morbidity and mortality in midwifery cases.

Ophthalmic Benefit under the Insurance Acts.

Under the National Insurance Act of 1911 money was provided for what may be termed "standard" benefits—namely, medical, sickness, disablement, and maternity—the first named being administered by Insurance Committees and the remainder by approved societies, except in the case of those insured persons who do not become members of a society, usually referred to as deposit contributors. The annual expenditure in respect of medical benefit being a definitely ascertainable quantity, only sufficient money is allocated for any one year as will be used in that year. In the case of the other benefits the same degree of definiteness not applying, and the possibility of approved societies not spending the whole of the moneys available therefor being foreseen, certain additional benefits were specified upon which any surplus funds which might accrue could be used. Such additional benefits were to be administered by approved societies, except where they are of the nature of medical benefits, in which case they must be administered by and through Insurance Committees. Among these additional benefits was one entitled "optical benefit," which in 1926 was changed to "ophthalmic benefit," which, curiously, is held by the Ministry of Health not to be of the nature of a medical benefit, but a monetary payment of part or the whole of the cost of treatment obtained by insured persons themselves and not the organization of a service for them. These additional benefits are not available to all insured persons throughout the country as are the "standard" benefits, but only to the members of an approved society which, after the valuation of its funds, is found possessed of a surplus and adopts the benefit; this benefit is only then available to the members of the society who were members thereof during the whole of the period during which such surplus accrued.

The British Medical Association strenuously objected to the administration by approved societies of any benefit of the nature of medical benefit, but it is faced with the fact that under the present interpretation of the law the administration of optical or ophthalmic benefit rests in the hands of approved societies. The Association pressed the opinion before the recent Royal Commission on the Health Insurance Acts that this benefit should not be administered by societies, with the result that the Commission definitely recommended that ophthalmic benefit should be recognized as part of the expert out-patient service under the National Health Insurance scheme and should not be available except on the recommendation of a medical practitioner. If and when legislative effect is given to this recommendation of the Royal Commission, the administration of the benefit in question will be taken out of the hands of approved societies and placed in the hands of Insurance

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

Section of Orthopaedics.—Tues., 5 p.m., Cases.

Section of Pathology.—Tues., 8.30 p.m.

Section of Tropical Diseases and Parasitology.—Wed., 5.30 p.m., Dr. Aldo Castellani: Observations on Cases of Chronic Colitis; Dr. T. W. M. Cameron: Biological Conceptions of Hydatid; Dr. R. J. Ortlepp: The Species of Nematode Genus Physaloptera in Man; Mr. S. Annecke: The Relative Numbers of Male and Female Gametocytes in Human Malaria and Haemoproteus in Birds; Dr. J. B. Christopherson: A case of Actinomycosis.

Section of Surgery.—Wed., 8.30 p.m., Discussion: The Treatment of Oesophageal Carcinoma; to be opened by Mr. F. J. Steward, followed by Mr. H. S. Souttar.

Section of Laryngology.—Fri., 4 p.m., Cases. 5 p.m., Presidential Address by Dr. Andrew Wylie: References in Literature and Folk-lore to Rhinology and Laryngology Sir Charles Ballance and Mr. Lionel Colledge: Effects of Nerve Anastomosis on Movements of Vocal Cords and Diaphragm (with cinematograph demonstration).

Section of Otology.—Annual Dinner, Langham Hotel, Fri., 7.45 p.m. Mr. G. J. Jenkins in the chair Sat., 9.45 a.m., Cases. 10.30 a.m., Diseases of the Outer Ear—The President (Dr Dan. McKenzie): Introductory Remarks; Dr. A. M. H. Gray: Common Affections of the Skin of the Outer Ear; Mr. F. C. Ormerod: Intractable Dermatitis of Pinna and External Auditory Meatus secondary to Middle-ear Chronic Suppuration. Paper—Mr. F. J. Cleminson: Deafness associated with Fragilitas Ossium. Cases and specimens. Epidiascopic Demonstration by Dr. J. S. Fraser: Congenital Deafness with Malformation of Bony and Membranous Labyrinth of Both Sides.

Section of Anaesthetics.—Fri., 8.30 p.m.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.—Thurs., 5 p.m., Bradshaw Lecture by Dr. F. G. Crookshank: The Theory of Diagnosis.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.—Demonstration, Mon., 5 p.m., Mr. C. E. Shattock: Scrotal Tumours. Thurs., 5 p.m., Thomas Vicary Lecture by Professor G. Elliot Smith, F.R.S.: The Significance of Anatomy.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.—Thurs., 8.30 p.m., Discussion: The Management of Labour with Contracted Pelvis; to be opened by Mr. Aleck Bourne, F.R.C.S., followed by Mr. Eardley Holland and Mr. Clifford White.

RÖNTGEN SOCIETY, 32, Welbeck Street, W.1.—Tues., 8.15 p.m., The President: Research in Radiology.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.—*Special Lecture* at Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W.1: Thurs., 5 p.m., Observations on the Treatment of Fractures; free to all members of the medical profession. *Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital*, 234, Great Portland Street, W.1: Special Afternoon Demonstration in Clinical Surgery, Mon., 3 p.m.; free to all members of the medical profession. *Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital*, City Road, E.C.: Special Demonstration in Clinical Ophthalmology, Thurs., 1 p.m.; free to all members of the medical profession. *Hampstead General Hospital*, Haverstock Hill, N.W.: Practitioners' Course in General Medicine and Surgery, 4.30 to 6 p.m. daily. Clinical Demonstration followed by Lecture. *London Lock Hospital*, 91, Dean Street, W.1: Clinical work each day from 1 p.m. onwards. Special Lectures most afternoons. Copies of the syllabuses of the above special courses and information on post-graduate work generally may be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—Thurs., 4 p.m., The Urine in Childhood.

LONDON SCHOOL OF DERMATOLOGY, St. John's Hospital, Leicester Square, W.C.2.—Tues., 5 p.m., Principles of Treatment—Local. Thurs., 5 p.m., Eruptions due to External Irritants.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL, Queen Square, W.C.1.—Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 2 p.m., Out-patient Clinics. Mon. and Thurs., 5 p.m., Methods of Examination of the Nervous System. Mon., 12 noon, Pathology of the Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Vertigo. Tues., 12 noon, Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Muscular Atrophy. Thurs., 3.30 p.m., Intracranial Infection after Otitis Media. Fri., 3.30 p.m., Electrical Reactions of Muscles. Operations, Tues. and Fri., 9 a.m.

NORTH-EAST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15.—Mon., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Gynaecological Clinics; Operations. Tues., 2 p.m., Special Demonstration of Ear, Nose, and Throat Cases; 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, Throat, Nose, and Ear Clinics; Operations. Wed., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical Skin and Eye Clinics; Operations. Thurs., 2 p.m., Special Demonstration of Medical Cases; 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinics; Operations. Fri., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Surgical, Medical, and Children's Diseases Clinics; Operations.

POST-GRADUATE HOSTEL, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Mon., 9 p.m., Some Clinical Experiences. Fri., 9 p.m., Diverticulosis.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Wed., 4 p.m., Ventilation in Relation to Health.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Hammersmith, W.6.—Mon., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Genito-Urinary Operations, Skin Department, Surgical Ward Visit, Demonstration of Fractures; 2 p.m., Surgical Wards, Gynaecological and Eye Departments. Tues., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lecture on Clinical Methods, Demonstrations in Venereal Diseases and Chest Cases; 2 p.m., Medical Wards, Throat, Nose, and Ear Departments. Wed., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Children's Medical Out-patients, Medical Wards, Demonstration in Medical Pathology; 2 p.m., Surgical Wards, Eye Department. Thurs., 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Neurological Department; 2 p.m., Eye and Genito-Urinary Departments; 3 p.m., Gynaecological Wards. Fri., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Gynaecological Operations, Dental, Skin, and Electrical Departments; 2 p.m., Throat, Nose, and Ear Department. Sat., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bacterial Therapy Department, Children's Medical Out-patients. Daily: Operations, Medical and Surgical Out-patients at 2 p.m.

GLASGOW POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Royal Hospital for Sick Children: Wed., 4.15 p.m., Medical Cases.

JAMES MACKENZIE INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH, St. Andrews.—Tues., 4 p.m., Difficulties in the Clinical Diagnosis and Prognosis in the Various Forms of Chronic Bright's Disease.

MANCHESTER: ANCOATS HOSPITAL.—Thurs., 4.15 p.m., Fractures, Lower Limb. Tea at 3.45 p.m.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Tues., 4.15 p.m., Eczema in relation to Sensitization of the Skin. Fri., 4.15 p.m., Cancer of the Skin.

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY POST-GRADUATE CLINICS.—At Royal Infirmary: Fri., 3.30 p.m., Demonstration of Some Common Skin Diseases.

British Medical Association.

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IRISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin. (Telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin. Tel.: 4737 Dublin.)

Diary of the Association.

OCTOBER.

29 Fri. Aberdeen Branch: Annual Meeting, Palace Hotel, Aberdeen, 7.30 p.m. Dinner after Business Meeting.
Dudley Division: Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge, 9.30 p.m. Informal Supper, 8.
Hendon Division: Clinical Meeting and Dinner, Brent Bridge Hotel. Address by Dr. C. O. Hawthorne, 7.45 for 8 p.m.
Northern Counties of Scotland Branch: Palace Hotel, Inverness. B.M.A. Lecture by Dr. S. Cameron on Placenta Praevia, 6 p.m. Dinner, 8 p.m.
Sheffield Division: Church House, St. James Street, Sheffield, 8.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER.

2 Tues. City Division: Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, E. Professor Hugh Maclean on Treatment of Gastric Diseases, 9.30 p.m.
Coventry Division: Dr. Duncan Davidson on Fibrositis.
Dartford Division: Cottage Hospital, Erith. Mr. H Batten on Three Fractures of Most Importance to General Practitioners, 3 p.m.
Dewsbury Division: Man and Saddle Restaurant, Dewsbury. B.M.A. Lecture by Professor E. Mellanby on Some Modern Conceptions of Disease, Vitamins, and Ultra-Violet Radiation, 8.15 p.m.
Finchley Division: Finchley Memorial Hospital. Dr. Geoffrey Evans on the Treatment of Patients with High Blood Pressure, 8.45 p.m.
North Staffordshire Division: North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, 3.30 p.m.
South-West Essex Division: Livingstone College, Knott's Green, Leyton. Dr. Langdon Brown on Organotherapy in General Practice, 3.30 p.m.

3 Wed. Huddersfield Division: Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, 8 p.m.
Tower Hamlets Division: London Hospital Demonstration in Skin Department by Dr. W. J O'Donovan, 4.15 p.m.
Trowbridge Division: General and Clinical Meeting, St. Paul's Parish Hall, Malmesbury Road, Chippenham, 3 p.m.
Sunderland Division: Clinical Evening, Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, 7.30 p.m.

4 Thurs. London: Maternity and Child Welfare Subcommittee, 2.30 p.m.
Guildford Division: Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, 4 p.m.
Isle of Thanet Division: Thanet Isolation Hospital, Haine. Mr. E. H. Freeland on the Curative Value of Scarlet Fever Antitoxin, 3.30 p.m.

5 Fri. Banff, Moray, and Nairn Division: Clinical Meeting, Gray's Hospital, Elgin, 4.30 p.m.
Bishop Auckland Division: Dr. Nattrass on Recognition of Common Diseases of Spinal Cord.
South Suffolk Division: Crown and Anchor Hotel, Ipswich. Dr. Hugh Maclean on Recent Views on Stomach Diseases, 3.15 p.m.
Warrington Division: Dr. Donald Core on Automatism as met with in General Practice.

6 Sat. Norwich Division: Norfolk and Norwich Library, 9 p.m.

9 Tues. London: Organization Committee, 12 noon.
London: Propaganda Subcommittee, 2.30 p.m.
St. Pancras Division: B.M.A House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. Professor G. E. Gask on Gastric Ulcers, 9 p.m.

10 Wed. Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch: Clinical Meeting, Ruchill Fever Hospital, Maryhill, Glasgow, 3 p.m. Annual Dinner, Ferguson and Forrester's Restaurant, 36, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, 7 p.m.
Reigate Division: Clinical Meeting, East Surrey Hospital, 4.30 p.m.

11 Thurs. London: Charities Committee, 2.30 p.m.
Swansea Division: General Hospital, Swansea, Clinical Meeting, 8.15 p.m.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcement of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 9s., which sum should be forwarded with the notice not later than the first post on Tuesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

BIRTH.

SALISBURY.—On October 21st, at 19, The Drive, Northampton, the wife of Walter Salisbury, M.S., M.D., F.R.C.S., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

LYLE—GARLICK.—On October 21st, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Southport, by the Rev. H. McGowan, M.A., Peter Young, *M.C.*, M.B., Ch.B., to Frances Crossley (Dolly), younger daughter of A. D. Garlick.

DEATHS.

CANTLEY.—On October 23rd, suddenly, at Artane, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester, Joseph Cantley, L.R.C.P.Edin., L.R.C.S.Edin., L.F.P.S.Glas., aged 63.

LLOYD.—On October 23rd, at his residence, Tawelfan, Vale Street, Denbigh, North Wales, David Lloyd, M.B., C.M., J.P., in his 62nd year.

RAIMES.—On October 23rd, suddenly, at Mill Mount, York, Elizabeth Kirk, beloved wife of Alwyn Raimes, M.D., aged 61.

SPROAT.—On October 16th, at Wylde Green, Birmingham, James Hugh Sproat, M.B., L.S.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond.

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METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: STRATFORD DIVISION.—A general meeting of the Stratford Division will be held in the Board Room, Educational Offices, The Grove, Stratford, on Tuesday, November 16th, at 9.15 p.m. Agenda: Report on scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers, and recommendation to adopt resolution under Ethical Rules. Discussion: The relationship of the general practitioner to the hospital; to be opened by Mr. H. S. Souttar, C.B.E., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., surgeon to the London Hospital. It is hoped that all general practitioners, as well as members attached to the various types of hospitals, will endeavour to attend and take part in the discussion.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND DIVISION.—The annual dinner of the North Northumberland Division is to be held on Wednesday, November 10th, in the Plough Hotel, Alnwick, at 7 for 7.30 p.m., at which Dr. William Fordyce (Edinburgh) and Dr. Cox, Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association, are to be the principal guests. Tickets, exclusive of wine, 10s. 6d. each. Earlier in the evening, at 6 o'clock, Dr. William Fordyce will give, in the Alnwick Infirmary, an address entitled "Pitfalls in gynaecology."

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.—A clinical meeting of the Northern Counties of Scotland Branch will be held at the Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on Friday, November 12th, at 3 p.m., when the following papers will be read:—Dr. James Luke: Three cases of abscess of the neck; Mr. Kenneth Gillies: The acute abdomen; Mr. David Dickie: The modern surgical treatment of goitre, with special reference to exophthalmic goitre.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: SWANSEA DIVISION.—A general clinical meeting of the Swansea Division will be held at the General Hospital, Swansea, on Thursday, November 11th, at 8.15 p.m.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: PORTSMOUTH DIVISION.—The next meeting of the Portsmouth Division will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Southsea, on Thursday, November 11th, at 9.30 p.m., when an address on asthma in childhood will be given by Dr. Robert Hutchison (London). The meeting will, as usual, be preceded by supper at 9 o'clock sharp. Members intending to be present at the supper are requested to notify the honorary secretary, Dr. H. H. Warren, "Devonia," Goldsmith Avenue, Southsea, on or before Monday, November 8th.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: PLYMOUTH DIVISION.—The annual meeting of the Plymouth Division will be held at Goodbody's Restaurant, Bedford Street, Plymouth, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 4 p.m. Tea will be kindly provided by the chairman of the Division, Dr. Percy Thomas. Agenda: Election of officers for the ensuing year; annual report of the Executive Committee, and special report as to minimum commencing salaries of public health medical officers; consider the business of the Annual Representative Meeting; make, alter, or repeal rules, if necessary; consider the 1d. in the £ hospital scheme and its abuse; consider question of medical charities.

SURREY BRANCH: REIGATE DIVISION.—A clinical meeting of the Reigate Division will be held at the East Surrey Hospital, Red Hill Common, on Wednesday, November 10th, at 4.30 p.m.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.—A meeting of the West Somerset Branch will be held at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, Taunton, on Tuesday, November 16th, at 4.30 p.m. Dr. Herbert French will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on "A series of small points." The annual West Somerset medical dinner will take place at the County Hotel, Taunton, the same evening at 7.30. Dr. J. A. Macdonald will take the chair at both events.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: HUDDERSFIELD DIVISION.—The medical dance will be held on Wednesday, December 1st, in the Royal Infirmary, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; reception, 8.45 p.m. For those who do not wish to dance, a bridge drive, commencing at 9.15 p.m., will be arranged. Tickets 7s. 6d.; admission by programme. As the dance will only be held if a sufficient number of tickets are sold, members are requested to apply for tickets before November 20th.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: ROTHERHAM DIVISION.—The annual dinner of the Rotherham Division will be held at the Crown Hotel, Rotherham, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 7.15 p.m. Official guests representing public authorities in the area have been invited, and the Medical Secretary, Dr. Alfred Cox, has promised to be present. Tickets, price 12s. 6d., to be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mr. W. S. Wildman, Eastwood House, Rotherham, on or before November 12th.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: PORTSMOUTH DIVISION.

THE Portsmouth Division opened its winter session by a most successful meeting at the Queen's Hotel on October 14th, when Dr. MEARNS FRASER was in the chair. Seventy-five members sat down to the supper preceding the meeting, and the total attendance numbered 120.

Sir Bernard Spilsbury's Address.

After the formal business had been transacted Sir BERNARD SPILSBURY gave an address on the subject of "Death and sudden death." He pointed out that in all cases death ultimately results from failure of the three master systems—the respiratory, the circulatory, and the central nervous system—and that in the case of the last of these, death was due to failure of the centres controlling the respiratory and vasomotor mechanisms, and less frequently of those regulating the heart's action. He discussed the problems of simulated death in which a feeble action of the heart and respiration might be overlooked, unless a careful examination was made, and the patient pronounced to be dead whilst still alive. He considered conditions of apparent death, in which the vital functions could in certain circumstances be restarted, if the attempt were made immediately after they had failed, taking as illustrations resuscitation in anaesthetic cases and in electrocution. He quoted experiments showing that the cells in the central nervous system were quickly put out of action by lack of oxygen due to failure of the circulation, and that a slightly longer period of deprivation resulted in their death. He estimated that the circulation ceased practically within five minutes of complete arrest of the heart's action, and that within another five minutes the cells of the vital centres in the central nervous system were damaged beyond hope of recovery, so that death was inevitable after ten minutes complete arrest of the vital functions. He then referred to some of the causes of sudden and unexpected death from natural causes, taking as illustrations such conditions as disease of the coronary arteries, myocardial degeneration, pulmonary embolism, congenital defects of the heart, gross disease of the base of the brain and upper part of the spinal cord and their adjuncts, and chronic internal hydrocephalus. Finally, he discussed conditions of death from shock, in which no gross disease could be found, pointing out that there were certain parts of the body sudden stimulation of which was liable to be followed by severe, and even fatal, shock, and he suggested that the emotional condition of the victim at the time might be an important factor in these cases.

Sir Bernard Spilsbury's very able and practical address was followed with the closest attention, and at its conclusion the lecturer replied to a large number of questions in connexion with various points which had arisen. An enthusiastic vote of thanks to Sir Bernard Spilsbury, proposed by Mr. BOSWORTH WRIGHT and seconded by Dr. MONTAGUE WAY, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close. During the evening the hearty congratulations of the members of the Division were conveyed from the chair to Mr. Bosworth Wright and Dr. Montague Way, whose names had recently been added to the Commission of the Peace for the city of Portsmouth.

VACANCIES.

BATH: BAILBROOK HOUSE.—Assistant Medical Officer (lady). Salary £130 per annum.

BATH: ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL.—(1) House-Physician. (2) House-Surgeon. Males, unmarried. Salary £120 and £100 per annum respectively.

BETHLEM ROYAL HOSPITAL, Lambeth Road, S.E.1.—Junior Assistant Physician. Salary £350 per annum, rising to £500.

BIRMINGHAM: QUEEN'S HOSPITAL.—(1) Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon. (2) Dental Surgeon.

BIRMINGHAM UNION.—Resident Junior Assistant Medical Officer (female) at the Selly Oak Hospital. Salary £200 per annum.

CHICHESTER: ROYAL WEST SUSSEX HOSPITAL.—Two Honorary Surgeons.

CITY OF LONDON MATERNITY HOSPITAL, City Road, E.C.1.—Assistant Resident Medical Officer. Three months' appointment at £80.

DONCASTER BOROUGH.—Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer. Salary £600 per annum.

EASTERN DISPENSARY, Leman Street, E.1.—Gynaecologist.

ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON HOSPITAL, Euston Road, N.W.1.—(1) House-Physician. (2) Obstetric Assistant. (3) Two House-Surgeons. Females. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum.

FREEMASONS HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME, 237, Fulham Road, S.W.3.—Resident Medical Officer (male). Salary at the rate of £250 per annum.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton, S.W.3.—Assistant Physician.

HULL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Honorary Physician.

LONDON FEMALE LOCK HOSPITAL, Harrow Road, W.9.—Honorary Obstetric Surgeon.

LONDON JEWISH HOSPITAL, Stepney Green, E.1.—(1) Resident Medical Officer. (2) Junior Resident Medical Officer. Salary at the rate of £150 and £100 per annum respectively.

LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL, Hampstead Road, N.W.1.—Honorary Physician.

MALAY STATES.—Radiologist. Salary £700—35—£1,120 per annum.

MANCHESTER CITY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—Assistant Medical Officer at the Baguley Sanatorium (unmarried). Salary £350 per annum.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—(1) Honorary Neurological Surgeon. (2) Pathological Registrar; salary £100. (3) Surgical Tutor; salary £50.

MANCHESTER VICTORIA MEMORIAL JEWISH HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £120 per annum.

MANOR HOUSE HOSPITAL, Golders Green, N.W.11.—Assistant Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £750 per annum.

MIDDLESBROUGH: NORTH ORMESBY HOSPITAL.—Second House-Surgeon (male). Salary £135 per annum.

MIDDLETON-IN-WHARFEDALE SANATORIUM.—Senior Assistant Medical Officer (non-resident). Salary £600 per annum, rising to £700.

MILLER GENERAL HOSPITAL, Greenwich Road, S.E.—(1) Assistant Physician. (2) Two Assistant Surgeons.

NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Honorary Surgeon.

OXFORD: RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY AND COUNTY HOSPITAL.—(1) Honorary Assistant Surgeon. (2) Honorary Assistant Physician to the Electrotherapeutic Department.

PLAISTOW: ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—(1) Resident Medical Officer. (2) Assistant Resident Medical Officer. Salary at the rate of £175 and £130 per annum respectively.

PLYMOUTH: SOUTH DEVON AND EAST CORNWALL HOSPITAL.—Honorary Assistant Physician.

ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Holloway, N.—(1) Out-patient Medical Officer. (2) House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £125 and £70 per annum respectively.

ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, S.W.1.—Obstetric Registrar. Honorarium £40 per annum.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.—Pathologist in the Public Health Department. Salary Tls.600 per mensem.

SHEFFIELD CITY.—Resident Medical Officer at Winter Street Hospital for Tuberculosis. Salary £350 per annum, rising to £450.

Committees (or whatever bodies may succeed them), to administer along with the present medical benefit which is administered by those bodies. Societies administering optical benefit are entitled to make use of the services of opticians. The Association successfully represented to the Ministry that use should be made of ophthalmologists in the matter of treatment of the eye, and formed a list of ophthalmologists willing to treat insured persons at a fee of one guinea. Societies are gradually adopting the arrangements for ophthalmological treatment, and there are some 700 ophthalmologists on the Association's list willing to carry on the scheme. The normal procedure to be followed in connexion with ophthalmic benefit is, according to a communication addressed to the Association by the Ministry on October 8th, 1926, as follows:

An insurance practitioner is required, if the condition of one of his patients is such as to require ophthalmic treatment not within the scope of his agreement with the Insurance Committee, to furnish the patient with a signed written recommendation that such treatment should be obtained. The patient then hands the recommendation to his approved society and applies for ophthalmic benefit, which request, if granted by the society, can only result in the patient being instructed to consult any one of the practitioners upon the Association's list of ophthalmic surgeons who have expressed their willingness to treat insured persons at the fee of one guinea. At the same time the society must furnish the patient with some written authority for production to the ophthalmologist at the outset of the consultation which shows that the society undertakes to defray the ophthalmologist's fee of one guinea.

Members of the medical profession are sometimes met with statements by approved society officials that the society is not able to afford the fee of the ophthalmologist and that in consequence its members can only be permitted to consult an optician. Societies with a surplus are alone allowed to undertake the giving of this additional benefit, and then only with the approval of the Ministry of Health. It may safely be assumed that before such approval were given by the Ministry an estimate would be called for from the society as to the probable cost of the benefit, and that if it was unlikely that there would be sufficient surplus available for the estimated number of calls to be made upon such benefit, the society would not be allowed to give the benefit. In these circumstances, therefore, it would appear that there is no question of societies not having sufficient money in connexion with ophthalmic benefit unless their original calculations were based upon an assumption that the treatment of such an important organ as the human eye by an optician was all that was necessary. So far as they have done this they have taken a responsibility which the medical profession cannot share. It is clear that the method by which an approved society helps its members to get ophthalmic treatment is, according to the present administrative arrangements, a matter for the society itself. It is at least equally clear that the cases in which a practitioner could properly take the responsibility of saying that the services of an optician alone were necessary must be very rare.

Dispensing Capitation Fee under the National Insurance Acts.

The Conference of representatives of Local Medical and Panel Committees (of whose proceedings a full report appeared in the Supplement last week) authorized the Insurance Acts Committee to accept, as being the best under the circumstances, the offer of the Ministry of Health that the capitation fee payable to those practitioners who dispense for their patients be increased from the existing rate of 2s. to 2s. 3d. as from January 1st, 1927. This applies, of course, only to England and Wales, different arrangements being in operation in Scotland. The Insurance Acts Committee, through its Rural Practitioners Subcommittee, endeavoured to secure that the increased fee should be 2s. 6d., and payable as from January 1st, 1926. But joint investigations by the Ministry of Health and the Committee revealed the fact that the average cost of medicine for each insured person on the list of an insurance practitioner who prescribed as well as dispensed amounted only to some 2s. 4d. per annum, from which must be deducted a certain amount for the cost of specially expensive drugs; and in view of this finding the Conference felt it advisable to accept the Ministry's offer.

Revision of the British Pharmacopoeia.

In connexion with the revision of the *British Pharmacopoeia* a matter of great importance to insurance practitioners was discussed at last week's Conference of Local Medical and Panel Committees. It is felt that the knowledge gained by the medical profession during the fourteen years' operation of the National Insurance Acts in the matter of economical prescribing, in no way detrimental to the interests of the patients, should be brought before the Committee of the Privy Council which has been entrusted with the revision of the *British Pharmacopoeia*. Accordingly the Conference has instructed the Insurance Acts Committee to investigate this question and to endeavour to obtain representation on the Committee of the Privy Council.

Association Notices.

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

Border Counties Branch: Dumfries and Galloway Division.—Arising out the lecture by Dr. Drever, the Scottish Medical Secretary, on October 7th, a further meeting of the hospital authorities, public health authorities, and members of the Dumfries and Galloway Division has been convened for Thursday, November 11th, at 3 p.m., in the County Buildings, Dumfries, to receive the report of a committee appointed to consider the question of hospital provision in the area and advise on the extension required.

Dorset and West Hants Branch: West Dorset Division.—A meeting of the West Dorset Division will take place at the Weymouth and District Hospital on Tuesday, November 9th, at 8 p.m. Agenda: Discussion of cases previously shown by the medical and surgical staff. Discussion: Causes and treatment of asthma; to be opened by Dr. H. L. Tasker and Dr. G. Aldred-Brown. Dr. A. Gray will also speak from the point of view of the nose and throat surgeon, and Dr. H. E. Manning, county tuberculosis officer, on asthma in tuberculosis. A large attendance of members is hoped for.

East York and North Lincoln Branch: East York Division.—The following meetings have been arranged for the session 1926-27:

Nov.	19th.	Lecture by Dr. S. Cameron.
Dec.	17th.	Annual dinner.
Feb.	18th.	British Medical Association Lecture.
March	18th.	Clinical meeting.
April	15th.	Lantern demonstration by Dr. Bannen.
May	20th.	Annual meeting.

In June.—Excursion to Bridlington.

Members wishing to read papers, show cases or specimens, should communicate with the honorary secretary at least a week beforehand.

Essex Branch: Mid-Essex Division.—A general meeting of the Mid-Essex Division will be held in the Board Room, Chelmsford Hospital, on Friday, November 12th, at 3 p.m. Agenda: Report on scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers, and recommendation to adopt resolution under Ethical Rules; question of appointing a consultant for cases of puerperal pyrexia presenting difficulties; demonstration of *x*-ray photographs by Dr. L. M. Billingham, radiologist to the Chelmsford Hospital. An executive meeting will be held at 2.45, immediately prior to the general meeting.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch.—By the courtesy of the medical officer of health and the medical superintendent, a clinical meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch has been arranged for Wednesday, November 10th, in Ruchill Fever Hospital, Bilsland Drive, Maryhill, Glasgow. Tea will be provided in the Recreation Hall, Administrative Block, at 3 p.m. Thereafter the company will be divided into parties, who will be conducted round the various departments of the hospital's activities, including the sections devoted to tuberculosis, radiology, and pathology. The annual dinner of the Branch will be held the same evening, at 7 o'clock, in Ferguson and Forrester's Restaurant, 36, Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Tickets 7s. 6d. each; morning dress. In order to facilitate arrangements for tea and dinner, members proposing to be present are requested to notify Dr. J. G. McCutcheon, honorary secretary, 257, West George Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch: Lanarkshire Division.—A meeting of the Lanarkshire Division will be held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Motherwell, on Tuesday, November 9th, at 8.30 p.m. Dr. James R. Riddle will give a lantern demonstration on *x* rays in diseases of the alimentary canal.

Metropolitan Counties Branch: City Division.—The annual dinner of the City Division will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant at 7.30 p.m. on December 2nd. Tickets (12s. 6d.) can be obtained from the chairman, Dr. Harold Latham, 2, Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, or from the secretary. The next clinical afternoon in conjunction with the Aesculapian Society will take place on Friday, November 12th, at the Metropolitan Hospital, 4.15 p.m. Tea, 4.

Metropolitan Counties Branch: Hampstead Division.—A divisional meeting will be held at Northcourt Hospital, College Crescent, on Thursday, November 11th, at 8.30 p.m., when an address will be given by Dr. H. Batty Shaw, on tubercle bacillus or phthisis bacillus.

Metropolitan Counties Branch: St. Pancras Division.—A meeting of the St. Pancras Division will be held at the British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on Tuesday, November 9th, at 9 p.m. Professor G. E. Gask, C.M.G., D.S.O., will give an address on gastric ulcers.